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9 November 1959

**ORGANIZATION AND DELIBERATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES PROJECT ORGAN**

1. General direction and control of the Project shall be exercised jointly by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chief of Staff, USAF, subject to guidance from higher authority and coordination with other departments of the Government as appropriate. They shall furnish policy guidance to lower echelons, ensure the conformity of operations under the Project with national policy, and make recommendations to higher authority on matters transcending their own authority. Further, it shall be their joint responsibility to resolve differences that may arise at lower staff and operating levels.

2. The following are the organizational elements which shall be responsible for the conduct of the Project:

CIA -  
a. There is in existence a Project Headquarters headed by a CIA Project Director. An Air Force officer is assigned as Deputy Project Director. Project Headquarters will establish an operational unit presently planned to be stationed in the Zone of Interior. This unit will be manned by USAF and CIA personnel in numbers, proportions, and skills as agreed between the Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer.

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b. All military personnel assigned for full-time duty to the Project will be carried on CIA rolls, chargeable to CIA, for a projected minimum of three years.

Hq. USAF -  
c. There has been established a separate Air Force Project Staff headed by a Project Officer who will act in the name of the Chief of Staff, USAF. The Project Staff will include selected officers designated by certain of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff to act as points of contact within their several offices.

3. The functions and responsibilities of these elements will be as follows:

a. The CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officers shall have primary responsibility for the development and execution of all activities concerning the Project within their own organizations; the resolution of differences that may arise at lower echelons; and the reporting of progress and the making of recommendations to their respective chiefs.

b. The Project Headquarters will be responsible for any continued research and development, operational planning, and the direction and control of activities in the final operational phase of the Project when overflights are being launched.

c. The Air Force Project Staff shall be responsible for implementing plans approved by the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer, and arranging for Air Force support of Project activities which can appropriately be furnished through staff channels or by other Air Force commands.

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3. Security of this project within the BOD will be the responsibility of the Air Force Project Officer. All clearances for personnel within the BOD will be approved in advance and monitored by the Air Force Project Officer.

4. Activities under this Project fall into three phases. These overlap one another in time but may be distinguished on the basis of the kinds of activities involved in each. The following are the specific authorities and responsibilities of the several organizational elements in the successive phases of the Project:

a. The first phase is that in which the major activities are: research and development, procurement, the construction and activation of a test and training base, the testing of equipment, and operational planning. The Project Director shall have control of these activities including the planning and recruiting of personnel under his control. The Air Force will provide and coordinate necessary Air Force support which will be a matter for informal agreement between the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer. Full and complete coordination of all Air Force elements during this phase is essential.

b. The second phase will be devoted to flight test and training. These activities will be conducted at the test and training base. The operational flight training will be conducted in accordance with syllabi and standards as mutually agreed between the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Office. Phase II

terminates with the decision that crews and equipment are operationally ready.

c. The third phase will be that of active operations. This phase follows the decision as to operational readiness. The final decision as to execution and timing of actual overflight missions shall rest with the CIA Project Director, subject to such guidance as he may receive from higher authority. Certification coordination and support procedures currently employed in Project GILBERT will apply. The line of command shall be direct between operational units and the Project Director.

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APPROVED FOR CIA:

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